

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

FACTS, NEWS, AND GOSSIP.

The Relief of Grant-The Naval Appropriation-Naval-War Veterans-Pension Matters.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 16.

The sentiment of the House is favorable to the proposition to restore General Grant to the army and retire him with the rank of General. This would give him a life-income of about \$17,000 a year, and with the revenue derived from the \$250,000 invested for his benefit, ought to keep him from starvation.

If the first bill which the Senate passed for the retirement of Grant, and which mentions him by name, can be brought before the House for a square vote it will probably pass; but the Edmunds bill, which authorizes the President to appoint and retire "a person," meaning but not naming Grant, would not have so good a chance. It is held by the friends of General Fitz-John Porter that to pass the Edmunds bill would be to acknowledge the soundness of the reasons assigned by the President for retaining the bill for the relief of General Porter, and they will oppose it on that ground. They do not doubt that the President would approve the original bill for the relief of Grant, notwithstanding the fact that it is open to the same objection which Mr. Arthur Adams, at the suggestion of Attorney General Brewster and under the pressure of party expediency, as an excuse for vetoing the Porter bill.

THE NAVY.

The Democrats in Congress are divided upon the question whether the rebuilding of the navy ought to be secured by appropriations to be made this session or the work be postponed until Cleveland is warm in his place and his policy developed. This subject was under discussion in caucus last night.

Mr. Randall representing those who favor postponement until next winter, and Mr. Ellis, of Louisiana, being the chief exponent of the opposite opinion. While no formal decision was reached, it was evident that a majority were inclined to follow the advice of Mr. Randall. The opposition secured an adjournment of the caucus to prevent an endorsement of Mr. Randall's views, which seemed about to be done, although Mr. Randall did not ask or desire any formal expression by the caucus.

COMPLETING THE MONITORS.

The naval appropriation bill for the next fiscal year will make provision for the completion of the monitors and the three new cruisers, but no appropriation for beginning the construction of additional vessels will be made before next winter.

POST-OFFICE MATTERS.

The post-office appropriation bill will contain a new method of determining the compensation of railroad companies for carrying the mails. The proposed new method will be based upon the amount of space occupied by mail matter and the speed of the trains. The weight of the mail will be taken into consideration only as an incidental element in the computation. The committee have adopted in the main the recommendations of the three commissioners appointed two years ago by the Postmaster-General, but have rejected some suggestions which are very favorable to the railroad companies. The committee estimate that not less than a million dollars would be saved by the railroad mail transportation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, by the adoption of the new method.

MEXICAN-WAR VETERANS.

The Mexican pension bill received a setback in the House today, a majority refusing to agree to take up the question in preference to bills on the private calendar. The prospects of the passage of this bill are not encouraging to its supporters. Besides the parliamentary difficulties of its situation, it is encumbered by very objectionable amendments, put on by the Senate, which northern Democrats do not feel that they can safely vote against and southern Democrats are unwilling to vote for. It also has the disadvantage of incompetent management in the House, and the veterans of the Mexican war will probably have to wait at least another year for justice.

Secretary McCulloch takes great interest in the project of the manufacturers and owners of whiskey, and, besides the favors heretofore granted them in respect to bonded whiskey, extended them a helping hand today by sending to the House the draft of a bill providing that the internal-revenue tax shall not be due on distilled spirits until it is withdrawn from bonded warehouses for consumption. The Secretary accompanies the draft of the proposed legislation with a long communication in its support.

XLVTH CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, January 16, 1885.

SENATE.

Mr. Hoar offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing the architect of the Capitol to place in the room of the Senate wing in which Vice-President Henry Wilson died a marble tablet recording the fact and the date of his death. Mr. Hoar, in moving the resolution, briefly eulogized the deceased saying, among other things, that he was a notable instance of the opportunities afforded by American institutions to the humblest citizen to rise to eminent position.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of bills upon its calendar.

Among the memorials presented was one from 3,000 citizens of Philadelphia setting forth that the ratification of the pending Spanish treaty would throw out of employment more citizens of the United States than are inhabitants in Cuba and Porto Rico, and protesting against the ratification. A number of other petitions against the ratification of the treaty were presented and appropriately referred.

A message from the House of Representatives was received announcing the disagreement of that body to Senate amendments to the temporary naval appropriation bill, and asking for a conference; which request was granted, and the Chair appointed conferees.

At 2 o'clock the Chair laid before the Senate the inter-State commerce bill.

The debate on the day's session. The question pending was Mr. Slater's amendment providing that no greater charge should be made for a short haul than for a long haul when the longer haul included the shorter route.

Mr. Van Wyck opened the discussion in a long, prepared speech upon the general subject of Government control of railroads.

Mr. McPherson regarded as unconstitutional the pending amendment of Mr. Slater, which would prohibit inter-State railroads from charging any greater compensation for transporting property a short distance than for a longer distance. It would give some roads the power to bankrupt and ruin their rivals. The New York Central and Pennsylvania

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Harry S. New, city editor of an Indianapolis paper, testified that he came to Cincinnati with ten men, whom he brought at the request of E. G. Rathbone, for the purpose of spotting Indianapolis repeaters. He gave their names and described the men as reliable for the purposes required. He had information that suspicious men were coming here from Indianapolis and thought it necessary that men should be sent to watch them.

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LATE WEATHER REPORT.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

WASHINGTON, January 17--130 A. M.--For the Middle Atlantic States, cloudy weather, with local rain, followed by colder, clearing weather, light winds, shifting to northerly winds, with gales on coast, rising barometer in northern portion, falling followed by rising barometer in northern portion.

For the South Atlantic States, cold, partly cloudy weather, local rains, shifting to northerly winds, brisk in force.

The Weather in Richmond Yesterday was cloudy and slightly rainy.

Range of Thermometer Yesterday.

6 A. M. 52
9 A. M. 57
Noon 67
3 P. M. 74
6 P. M. 69
Midnight 60

Mean temperature 64 1/2

THE UNIVERSITY.

The Chairs of Chemistry and of International and Constitutional Law Filled.

(Special Telegram to the Dispatch.)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Jan. 16, 1885.

The Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia re-elected Professor John W. Mallet to the chair of Chemistry.

Professor James H. Gilmore, of Marion, Smyth county, was elected to the chair of International and Constitutional Law.

Professor Gilmore is a practicing lawyer, devoted to his profession, and is an alumnus of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

He is a man of ability, and is personally acceptable as a high-toned gentleman.

He is one of the Board of Visitors which preceded the present Board.

HAMPTON.

Robbed of \$145--Improvement--Vict.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

Wednesday night Mr. Warren Carpenter, who was the cross-road robber of \$145. He attended the marriage of his father that night, and for snacking, removed his money, which was in silver, from the drawer in which it was usually kept, and hid it in his bed. On his return he found his boxes and drawers broken open and his money gone. There is no clue to the robbers.

A large school-house is to be built shortly on South Back street.

Judge Booker is confined to his home by sickness, consequently county court is not in session.

WEST VIRGINIA'S PATRONAGE.

Mr. Gibson Calls a Meeting on Which He Relies to Obtain Control of It.

A Wheeling (W. Va.) special to the New York World says: Congressman Gibson went to see Governor Cleveland with a double object in view--first, to impress him with West Virginia's important role in the October election; and second, to protest against Henry G. Davis' rumored elevation to the Cabinet. Cleveland sent him away decidedly crestfallen, and Gibson has set to work to organize a band to control West Virginia patronage. His organ by undertaking an anti-Randall crusade in the guise of gathering public sentiment on the removal of Cleveland from office, the city being filled with members of the Legislature, he called a meeting at the McClure House last night. Gibson addressed them on the tariff question, beginning very mildly, but ending by denouncing Randall as "a party traitor and the tool of northern monopolies"; a man who talked one way and voted another to keep his seat in Congress; the leader of a treacherous band of 11 who helped the Republicans defeat Democrats and the Missouri bill. He proposed a revenue-reform organization.

Colonel David Leonard, chairman of the State Democratic Committee, hotly opposed this as dangerous to the party, and Gibson, finding himself thwarted, prorogued the caucus. To-day there was great indignation among prominent Democrats who were published as present at the meeting; they were the laughing-stock of the city. Honest tariff-reformers who attended were blushing with shame at the statement that they participated in the formation of a club to control the State patronage, and Gibson's diminished head has not been seen in its accustomed place.

A Grand Reception.

(New York Tribune.)

General and Mrs. Roger A. Pryor gave a large reception Thursday afternoon from 4 until 7 o'clock to introduce into society their two daughters, Lucy and Emily Pryor. The house at No. 35 Third-street was thronged with guests, with plants, call-bells, palms, ferns and pinneys. Mrs. Pryor received with her daughters in the back drawing-room. She wore a rich black silk dress made with a full train, pointed, and diamond ornaments. Miss Emily Pryor appeared in a dress of white silk, the front of crystal fringe, a diamond necklace, and pink roses. Miss Lucy wore white lace shawl and draped with white with pearl necklace and pearl white roses. Both young ladies wore violets sent from North Carolina. Tea was served in the library on the second floor, by Miss Maggie Hall, daughter of the Rev. Charles Hall, of Trinity church, Brooklyn. Miss Barnes, Miss Potts, and Miss Vail. Miss Hall wore a delicate lavender and pink silk dress with pink roses; Miss Potts, white silk; Miss Vail, pale pink silk with coral neck and Miss Barnes sky blue silk and Oriental lace. The tea-service was of solid silver, presented to General Pryor by the State of Virginia for his services in the Confederate army.

The Highest Light in the World.

(Chicago Evening Post.)

A dark day, yet, all but those clouds, have a silver lining for me. How is that? Well, you see on days like this the out-turn of light in the down-town central station is about doubled, and our receipts are correspondingly increased. Busy? Never more so. I have got out a new batch of telephone improvements. They think well of them in Boston. I have heard, I suppose, that the light company has just signed a contract with Colonel Casey, the chief engineer of the Washington Monument, to light the interior with 125 lamps. That puts the electric light 550 feet in the air, considerably higher than we ever expected to get when we hung the first lamp on a telegraph pole in Menlo Park a few years back.

The Clerk of the House.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

LYNCHBURG, January 16.--W. H. Crawford, county clerk of Bland county, has been missing